

**BLET REVISION COMMITTEE
MEETING MINUTES
January 11, 2019
North Carolina Justice Academy
Greensboro, NC**

Mrs. Jennifer Fisher called the meeting to order at 10:02 a.m. and thanked everyone for attending the January 11, 2019, BLET Revision Committee meeting. Julynn Washington conducted a formal roll call. A quorum was present. Mrs. Fisher recognized guests in attendance and asked that they introduce themselves.

Members Present:

Len Condry, Coastal Carolina Community College
Jon Gregory, Wake Technical Community College
Billy Kelly, Rockingham Police Department
Rocky Nance, Brunswick County Sheriff's Office (Representing Sammy Turner)
Randy Shepherd, Guilford County Sheriff's Office
Richard Tullis, Asheville Police Department
Aaron Vassey, Cleveland Community College
Steve Warren, Western Piedmont Community College

Members Absent:

Rick Barney, Craven Community College
Kelly Bleckwelder, Town of Elon Police Department
Shane Manuel, North Carolina State Highway Patrol

Ex-Officio Members Present:

Michelle Schilling, CJ Standards Division
Marie Evitt, NC Department of Justice
Steve Combs, CJ Standards Division
Diane Konopka, Sheriffs' Standards Division
Autumn Hanna, Sheriffs' Standards Division

Ex-Officio Members Absent:

Charminique Williams, CJ Standards Division
Chris Scott, Sheriffs' Standards Division

Staff Present:

Jennifer Fisher, NC Justice Academy
Julynn Washington, NC Justice Academy
Trevor Allen, NC Justice Academy
Laurie Austen, NC Justice Academy

Guests Present:

Tracey McPherson, North Carolina Community College System Office
Andrea Hyson, North Carolina Community College System Office

OLD BUSINESS

➤ Approval of October 12, 2018 meeting minutes

Members were afforded an opportunity to review the minutes from the October 12, 2018 meeting. Steve Warren made the **motion** to accept the minutes with correction to the date. Randy Shepherd **seconded**. No further discussion. **Motion carried.**

➤ Additional January 2019 Revisions

A memo was provided to the revision committee on four additional revisions not previously approved by the committee due to statutory and minor content changes to the following blocks of instructions:

- Anti-Terrorism (BLET: 34M) – A minor revision was made to the lesson plan removing the anti-fascists content from the right-wing terrorist groups section and adding it to the left-wing terrorist groups section.
- Preparing for Court and Testifying in Court (BLET: 29I) – A minor revision was made in the lesson plan updating the requirement of civil cases requiring more than \$25,000 in superior court.
- Sheriff's Responsibilities: Court Duties (BLET: 32K) – A minor revision was made in the lesson plan removing content that related to destroying unauthorized firearms and weapons confiscated in a court facility.
- Techniques of Traffic Law Enforcement (BLET: 23U) A minor revision was made regarding the punishment level to be an infraction of failing to notify a law enforcement officer that an individual has a concealed carry permit and is armed.

NEW BUSINESS

Grammarly

Mrs. Fisher discussed a new process that was implemented in January utilizing the Grammarly Software program to ensure proper grammar, punctuation, spelling, use of words, etc. This tool will assist in enhancing the quality of the BLET training materials.

New ISD Formatting

Ms. Austen discussed the formatting change from modified Turabian to full Turabian eighth edition. Ms. Austen advised that she would provide to the chairperson the “formatting” block

from the General Instructor Program to help the committee members better understand the new formatting.

BLET Revision Process Update

Jesse Kittrell is working the Physical Fitness block of instruction to lessen the lecture portion of the class, thus increasing the physical fitness portion. Jon Gregory inquired about content changes, physical fitness; cross fit nutrition and requirements for Specialized Instructor update materials. Trevor advised that he would share the information with Jesse Kittrell's Advisory Group to consider making SCAT more relevant with more up to date techniques such as the inclusion of Jujitsu and whether it would require an instructor update. Further discussion will be needed to determine if an Administrative Code change will be necessary. Other blocks currently being revised are Arrest Search and Seizure and Criminal Investigations. In addition to the blocks above being revised, two videos are being produced. These two videos are an Interlock Ignition System video for the Motor Vehicle Law block of instruction and Interacting with the Visually impaired in the Responding to the Public block of instruction. The legal review process continues. Aaron Vassey expressed his concern about the Motor Vehicle Law block of instruction being developed at an advanced level, not at a basic level. He discussed his difficulty to teach the Motor Vehicle Law block of instruction in the time frame allowed. Marie Evitt responded that the current format meets the requirements set forth by the BLET Task Analysis. Evitt welcomes any suggestions to make the lesson plan in a more understandable format. There was discussion regarding increasing the block of instruction although no action was taken at this time. Trevor Allen asked Michelle Schilling to survey the School Directors to gain a consensus on how many hours would be needed to add to the Motor Vehicle Law block of instruction to adequately cover the content.

Steven Combs requested the committee to consider having one implementation a year instead of two implementations of revisions in efforts to reduce the number of versions of the state exams administered. Marie Evitt requested that the implementation not to be in July due to the In-Service Legal Updates. Jon Gregory supported the annual implementation as well as incorporating additional practical exercises in efforts to create a more quality product. Discussion occurred on the logistics of implementation for a January roll out. Topic tabled pending further discussion.

Discussion occurred about the practical skills evaluation sheet in the Techniques of Traffic Law Enforcement block of instruction. Of concern is that the form grades the students as a team. Student "A" can meet the requirements while Student "B" does not meet the requirements resulting in complete failure for the team. This discussion occurred in a previous meeting supporting the team grading approach. No further action was taken on this topic.

End of Block and Practical Exercise Testing

Michelle Schilling advised that she is working on consistency for the Topical Testing and Practical Exercise Policy and will further report back to the committee. Aaron Vassey requested

a practical exercise check off sheet for the In-Custody Transportation block of instruction. Jennifer Fisher advised that she will create one before the next meeting.

Service Awards

Jennifer Fisher proposed to the committee to begin presenting service awards for commitment and dedication to the BLET Committee. Jennifer Fisher nominated Wayne Lamm and Janet Dunn to be considered as the first recipients to receive these awards. Steve Warren made a **motion** to nominate Wayne Lamm, Aaron Vassey **seconded**. Jon Gregory made a **motion** to nominate Janet Dunn, Randy Shepherd **seconded**. No further discussion. **Motions carried**.

Jon Gregory shared his research with the committee about the BLET state exam's weighted test questions. Gregory is working with the Criminal Justice Training and Standards Division staff to see how the weighted system may be formulated more fairly. Multiple members expressed their support for the concerns presented by Jon Gregory. Further discussion is needed.

Proposal to Remove the Sheriff's Unit

Steve Combs will present a proposal to remove the Sheriff's Unit from BLET to the E&T Committee on February 13, 2019. Discussion occurred on the logistics of taking it out as well as leaving it in and the maintenance of two possible curriculums.

Principles of Policing in the 21st Century

Trevor Allen presented a summary on the President's Task Force on 21st Century Policing about how it may impact the curriculum in the future. Examples include underscoring harsh or offensive language, incorporating adult based learning techniques, and scenario-based training.

Division Reports

Criminal Justice Standards Division Report

Michelle Schilling:

- A vendor was selected for the BLET Job Task Analysis. This is the first step of the Job Task Analysis. More information will be provided.
- Updated the committee with information about language to be inserted in the probationary instructor rules regarding medical waivers due to extenuating circumstances.
- Arrangements have made for the 2019 CJ School Director's Conference.
- 465 instructor failed to complete the one-hour online training requirement. Since January one instructor has completed their eight-hour instructional requirement to made their certification.
- Alex Setzer is retiring in January 2019.
- Discussion on Virtual Training was tabled as recommended by the E&T Committee.

Sheriff's Training and Standards Commission Division Report

Autumn Hanna:

- The Sheriff's Training and Standards Commission will no longer be granting any waivers of extension for Sheriff's Deputies, Detention Officers or Telecommunicators effective January 1, 2019.

Department of Justice Division Report

Marie Evitt:

- Presented support for NCJA staff's collaboration on the legal review of the BLET curriculum.
- Whitney Belich is leaving to take a position with the Conference of DA's.

North Carolina Justice Academy Report

Trevor Allen:

- Advised that the CJ Executive Commission has determined that the Revision Committees be renamed to Advisory Groups so they can continue to operate as that have in the past.

Adjournment

Len Condry made a **motion** that the meeting be adjourned. Aaron Vassey **seconded**. **Motion carried**. Meeting adjourned at 12:28 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Julynn Washington
Program Assistant
North Carolina Justice Academy

Date:

March 14, 2019